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Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:BAL
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MGARRISON
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
NO DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE EUR/SOV - 3 COPIES ONLY
---------- 051266
P 282158Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: OGEN, PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPT PRESS BRIEFINGS - JULY 27 AND JULY 28

1. FOLLOWING ARE CLARIFICATIONS OF JULY 27 PRESS BRIEFING
AND EXCERPTS FROM JULY 28 PRESS BRIEFING.

2. TEXT OF CLARIFICATIONS:

MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS.

BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1962 AND AUGUST 1963 THE EXISTENCE OF THESE
HIGHLY DIRECTIONAL, OFCUSSED MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS BEAMED
AT OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS FOUND AND VERIFIED FOR THE
FIRST TIME, AND NOT IN 1953 AS MAY HAVE BEEN IMPLIED, IN A
RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AT THE BRIEFING YESTERDAY.

REVIEW OF MEDICAL RECORDS.

THE STUDIES REFERRED TO YESTERDAY WERE CONDUCTED ON THE
BASIS OF THE RECORDS AND DATA COLLECTED ON THESE TRANS-
MISSIONS FROM LATE 1962 AND EARLY 1963. THE REVIEW OF
APPROXIMATELY 400 MEDICAL RECORDS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
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OF 1965 INCLUDED INDIVIDUAL FILES OF SOME EMPLOYEES AND

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DEPENDENTS WHO HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO MOSCOW SINCE 1953. THERE IS NO RECORD OF WHY THIS REVIEW WENT BACK TO 1953 AND 12 YEARS AFTER THE FACT THERE IS NO WAY THE DEPARTMENT CAN RECREATE WHAT AMOUNTS TO A DECISION TO EXAMINE MEDICAL RECORDS PRIOR TO THE VERIFICATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE SIGNALS THEMSELVES. THE EXPERTS CONSULTED AT THE TIME MAY VERY WELL HAVE DECIDED TO GO BACK TO A PERIOD BEFORE THE VERIFIED EXISTENCE OF THESE TRANSMISSIONS FOR CONTROL PURPOSES.

CHROMOSOME TESTS.

BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1966 AND JUNE 1969 A STUDY WAS MADE OF THE POSSIBLE CYTOGENETIC (CHROMOSOME) EFFECT OF THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS IN MOSCOW BASED ON THE BLOOD SAMPLES TAKEN BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1966 AND DECEMBER 1966, OF 35 PERSONS WHO WERE SERVING OR HAD SERVED IN MOSCOW.

A REVIEW COMMITTEE OF NON-GOVERNMENT MEDICAL EXPERTS ADVISED THE DEPARTMENT THAT NO VALID CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN FROM THE STUDY.

INDIVIDUALS INFORMED?

THERE IS NO RECORD OF WHETHER INDIVIDUALS WERE SPECIFICALLY INFORMED OF THE PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY. SOME INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WERE AWARE THAT AN ATTEMPT WAS BEING MADE TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANY POTENTIAL EFFECT OF THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS ON CHROMOSOME STRUCTURE. OTHERS APPARENTLY WERE NOT.

WHY WERE THE TESTS AND STUDIES UNDERTAKEN?

THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH PROMPTED THE REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL RECORDS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1965; THE CHROMOSOME STUDIES IN FEBRUARY 1966 AND JANUARY 1967; THE BLOOD TESTS WHICH BEGAN IN FEBRUARY 1976; THE STEPS WE HAVE TAKEN TO BRIEF EMPLOYEES WITH CURRENT, PRIOR OR ANTICIPATED MOSCOW SERVICE; AND THE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY UNCLASSIFIED

MADE FOR A BIOSTATISTICAL SURVEY AND EVALUATION OF APPROPRIATE MEDICAL RECORDS BY JOHNS HOPKINS ARE THE SAME, I.E., A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN REGARDING THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE SOVIET TRANSMISSIONS ON THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF OUR EMPLOYEES AND THE GENERAL LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN MOSCOW. TO DATE, THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY

CAUSAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE TRANSMISSIONS AND ANY

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HEALTH PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE SERVED
OR ARE NOW SERVING IN MOSCOW.

THERE HAVE BEEN AND ARE NO OTHER TESTS OR STUDIES RELATED
TO THE MOSCOW MICROWAVE TRANSMISSION OTHER THAN THOSE CITED
ABOVE.

3. TEST OF JULY 28 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q: BOB, CAN I GO BACK TO THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW. AS I
READ YOUR CLARIFICATION THIS MORNING, IT SEEMED TO ME TO
SAY THAT FOCUSSED, HIGH-LEVEL RADIATION BEGAN IN THE EARLY
SIXTIES, BUT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN
SOME OTHER KIND OF MICROWAVE RADIATION THAT BEGAN IN '53.

A: I WILL JUST HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT. I READ THE INFOR-
MATION THERE. I JUST DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWER, OR THAT ANY-
BODY KNOWS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE PURPOSE OF HIGH-LEVEL, HIGHLY
FOCUSSED MICROWAVE RADIATION IS?

A: I THINK THAT THAT IS GENERALLY KNOWN, BUT I WOULD PREFER
NOT TO DISCUSS IT ON THE RECORD AT THIS BRIEFING.

Q: TO RETURN TO THE EMBASSY AGAIN, I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER
IN FRONT OF ME, BUT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT CONCERNING THE
GENETIC TESTING THAT YOU SAID THE RESULTS WERE INCON-
CLUSIVE OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT.

A: ON THE CHROMOSOME TEST, THE MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE
INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT NO VALID CONCLUSIONS COULD
BE DRAWN FROM THE STUDY.
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Q: SO THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY
OF CHROMOSOME DAMAGE OR OTHER GENETIC PROBLEMS RESULTING
FROM THIS?

A: BUT THE REVERSE IS THAT ALL OF THE TESTS WE HAVE HAD
HAVE BEEN INCONCLUSIVE, AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT
THERE IS, BUT THAT IS --

Q: IF THE TESTS WERE VALID, IT COULD BE VALID ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER. IF IT IS INVALID, THAT MEANS THAT THEY CANNOT
ASSURE THE PEOPLE WHO WERE SUBJECTED TO THESE RADIATION
RAYS THAT THEY ARE ENTIRELY SAFE CONCERNING GENETIC
STRUCTURE, IS THAT RIGHT?

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A: BUT THERE IS NO MEDICAL EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT.
AND BECAUSE THERE IS STILL AN INCONCLUSIVE ELEMENT IS THE
REASON WHY WE HAVE NOW SIGNED THIS NEW CONTRACT
WITH JOHNS HOPKINS.

Q: THEY ARE GOING TO TEST CHROMOSOMES AND THAT SORT OF
THING?

A: THEY ARE GOING TO MAKE A BIOSTATISTICAL SURVEY.

Q: I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT BIOSTATISTICAL SURVEY
MEANS.

A: THEY ARE GOING TO EVALUATE ALL OF THE APPROPRIATE
MEDICAL RECORDS.

Q: NO RETESTING? THEY ARE SIMPLY GOING TO GO OVER THE
BASIC --

A: THE DATA THAT WE NOW HAVE.

Q: SO THERE IS STILL A POSSIBILITY, AT LEAST
STATISTICALLY, THAT THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED
GENETIC DAMAGE FROM THIS, AND THEY ARE GOING TO SEE
WHETHER THAT IS TRUE OR NOT?

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A: THAT IS WHY OBVIOUSLY WE ARE MAKING THE SURVEY.
WE WOULDN'T DO IT IF IT WAS CONCLUSIVE. BUT STILL, IN
ALL OF THESE TESTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE
THAT HAS COME FORWARD TO RELATE THESE TRANSMISSIONS WITH
ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS.

Q: HAVE THE TESTS RUN UP TO THIS POINT INCLUDED A STUDY
OF THE BIRTH DEFECTS AMONG THE OFFSPRING OF PEOPLE WHO
HAVE SERVED IN THE MOSCOW EMBASSY DURING THE PERIOD WHEN
THIS RADIATION WAS BEING BEAMED IN?

A: I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS OF THE EXTENT OF THE STUDY.

Q: COULD YOU FIND OUT, PLEASE?

A: I WILL LOOK INTO IT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS RELEASES, PRESS CONFERENCES, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE187031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:BAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-0564
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760712/aaaaakhv.tel
Line Count: 217
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 FEB 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 FEB 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPT PRESS BRIEFINGS - JULY 27 AND JULY 28
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, SOPN, US, UR
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
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